



CDC Initiates Portfolio Management Project with Initial Set of Pilot States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched a Portfolio Management Project (PMP) designed to strengthen executive level connectivity between CDC and state health agency leadership, and improve alignment of federal and state/local level public health planning and resources. As of June 2005, the CDC project is underway in an initial set of pilot states (Texas, Florida, New York, Ohio, Arkansas, Washington and the District of Columbia).

"As CDC works to provide national leadership for improving the health of the public through increased emphasis on well-defined health goals, alignment of program resources, and evaluation of program performance and health impact, success depends on strengthening the shared commitments between CDC and state health agencies for developing and sustaining the public health system," says CDC Director Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH. "Also, CDC program guidance needs to be simplified and aligned with concise health goals and program performance indicators. Our new Portfolio Managers are now positioned to help make that happen."

Under the project, CDC has assigned individual Senior Management Officials (SMOs) to the state health departments. The senior officials work directly with state health commissioners, local health authorities and others to implement the Portfolio Management Project within each state. As managers of the CDC state portfolios, the officials also serve as the point of contact for overarching agency policy and public health leadership issues – and to improve agency business services to state and local partners.

"We are excited to be able to initiate these projects working with our state and local public health leaders and constituent organizations. This work demonstrates CDC's commitment to improve health by taking a hard look at how we invest and manage our resources directed to state and local public health partners, and positioning the agency to change our policies and approaches where needed." says Mike Sage, the CDC official leading the overall development and implementation of the PMP.

Working with state and local partners and program staff across the CDC, the SMOs will assess individually and as a group current CDC program activities in the following contexts:

- how to strengthen executive-level communications, coordination and networking between CDC and its partners;
- how to improve internal CDC resource management and business practices;
- how to improve alignment and coordination of strategic planning and goals management for public health at federal, state and local levels;
- how to improve strategic direction, coordination, performance measurement, and leveraging of CDC and state public health resources;
- how to improve the future development, coordination and impact of CDC field staff.

Lessons learned through the seven pilot sites will inform future expansion of the project and concept to other locations.

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